

SAFELY HOME, FAMILIES FIRST

Regional Service Council Minutes

Region #16 Meeting

Date: October 23, 2014

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Haub's Steak Haus, Haubstadt, Indiana

Meeting Chair: Regional Manager Melanie Flory

Meeting Secretary: LaJean Gentry

Call to Order: Start Time 5:00 p.m. CST

Roll Call: Quorum – 7 of 10 Voting Members Present

Voting Members Present

Melanie Flory
Judge Robert Aylsworth
Shirley Starks
Michael Summers
Stephanie Hunt
Dan Miller
Libby Treado

Phone Present Absent with Regret

Absent

Judge Brett Niemeier
Judge Joseph Verkamp
Suzanne Draper

Others in Attendance

Lori Reinhart
Natalie Kassenbrock
Aaron Simpson
Samantha Freeman
Melanie Reising
Michael Singleton
Nicole Schultz
Melissa Haaff
Kris Mann
Sidney Hardgrave
Kim Bivens
Rick Carlson
Kathryn Kornblum-Zelle
Ramona Wilzbacher
Micci Frye
Keith Patterson
Kelly Salee
Jan Dotson

Terrie Decker
Trina Russell
Jeff Gray

Welcome

Melanie Flory welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made, and Melanie introduced Lori Reinhart as the new Gibson County Director and Melanie Reising as the new Posey County Director.

Approval of minutes from last meeting on July 31, 2014:

As read X

As corrected

Minutes of the July 31, 2014 RSC meeting had previously been e-mailed. Shirley Starks made motion to approve the Minutes. Stephanie Hunt seconded that motion. Minutes of the July 31, 2014 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Program/Committee Reports

Community Partners Report – Natalie Kassenbrock – Natalie stated the reports continue to be posted to the IHBS website and are available through that means. The Community Partners monthly summary for September shows 116 families received services in Region 16. Natalie stated a pie chart with this information has been added. In September 79 new referrals were received with 10 from Gibson, 7 from Knox, 1 from Pike, 5 from Posey, 49 from Vanderburgh and 7 from Warrick. A new report titled Referrals Received has been added. A second pie chart for the months of July, August and September shows the numbers of referrals received per month by county. Natalie noted there is a breakdown of where the referrals come from and used the example of Warrick County – two referrals were from DCS, 3 were self referrals from family members, 1 was from Cross Pointe, and 1 was from Riley Hospital. This report further breaks down how the individuals/agencies learned about IHBS in order to make a referral. For the Closed Case Summary there were 148 cases closed in the first quarter with 144 of those closed having met at least one goal. For September's budget, the target was 25% of the budget used and IHBS is at 24.4%. For October, the target is 33% and they are currently at 26.9 as of October 11. The budget is running close and with winter coming, there are usually more requests for funds.

Region 16 Practice Indicators – Melissa Haaff – Melissa noted that the region has been monitoring Length of Stay of Children in Out of Home Placement and working on reducing those numbers. The region is also monitoring Absence of Repeat Mal-Treatment, as well as ensuring kids are seen face to face at least once a month if not more often. The Practice Indicator reports are generated monthly for each county in the region so numbers can be reviewed.

Practice Update -- Trina Russell – The last peer coach meeting was held in Pike County. These meetings are now held in different counties each month rather than the same location so that people in the office can participate and not have to travel. One of the things discussed at this meeting was the upcoming QSR and what the peer coaches, practice consultant and practice champions can do to help staff for that review and teaming process. Efforts continue in keeping peer coaches trained as vacant positions are filled. The next peer coach meeting will be held on December 15, 2014 in Posey County.

Melanie noted that there is a new CFTM report generated through MaGIK which she has sent to Directors to review. There are currently some errors, but it will be a nice report once the glitches are worked out as this information is currently gathered manually on monthly basis. MaGIK generation of the report will save staff time.

Regional Foster Care – Sam Freeman – The Foster Care Unit has a new staff member, Mindy Prien, who is based out of Vanderburgh County. Mindy will be covering Vanderburgh and Posey Counties and has one Warrick County family. There are now seven foster care workers and two relative care support workers.

Staff members are being trained on the new Safe Home Study process based out of California. This is an in-depth way to prepare families for licensing and involves extensive interviewing, multiple home visits, questionnaires, different references, etc. It is hoped that this process will provide a better look at families and whether they are ready to foster parent in an effort to minimize disruptions.

November is National Adoption Month, and on November 1 at Barnes and Nobles from 12 to 3 there will be an adoption day event. There will be some booths there, as well as some recruitment occurring. Crafts, reading time, and snacks will be provided.

A second event will take place on November 10 at Sky Zone beginning at 5:00 p.m. The Heart Gallery, which promotes adoption in Indiana, will be present with information regarding children available for adoption. There will be guest speakers, including adopted children who are now adults, to give some personal statements about adoption.

Sam was asked when LCPA's would be trained on the new home study process, and that training will probably occur next spring.

QSR/QAR Update— Shirley Starks — Shirley noted that the QSR, Quality Service Review, is one way for the region to review practice, to make sure practice is being done well and to improve. The QSR is conducted by people trained within the DCS system to do those reviews. Every county in every region is reviewed every two years. Region 16's review will be held on December 9th and 10th. The region's partners will be asked to be part of that in several ways. For each specific case that is pulled the region will ask that people from the agencies involved with the family provide feedback about how DCS is doing, and how well DCS is doing in making sure everyone has an understanding of what is being worked on with the family, goals to be reached and ensuring everyone is on the same page. Agencies will also be asked to provide general feedback. Findings from this review will be reported on at January's RSC meeting. Another thing that will be looked at is whether the region has the services it needs, whether other services are needed, or whether there is a need to change practice.

Shirley requested feedback for DCS all the time, not just every two years, as it helps DCS make improvements where needed.

Cases are being prepped for the review at this time. Agreements have to be obtained from families and all parties that they will be willing to be a part of this review.

Permanency Round Tables – Margaret Angel – Margaret was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Melanie reported a PRT was held in October with two cases being reviewed. PRT is a way of reviewing cases and looking at things that have been done before and maybe trying again or presenting new ideas with the goal of bringing permanency for children in our care. Melanie noted Margaret does an excellent job of planning and getting the round tables organized. In addition to the PRT, all cases that are pulled have a follow-up mentor assigned and follow-up reports are completed. Region 16 had no overdue follow-up reports this time.

Budget Report -- Keith Patterson – Keith reported that the budget has been submitted but has not yet been approved. Keith stated reports attached to the meeting e-mail show that expenditures for the period of July through September, 2014, are down from the same period last year.

Services – Micci Frye – Micci stated the statewide RFP closed last Thursday. Those proposals are being pulled and sorted into categories. Region 16 has seven scoring teams and Micci will be working with the Directors on how to split those proposals between teams based on services. Scoring of proposals will occur on November 21. RSC voting members can read the proposals by going to the DCS office but proposals cannot leave the DCS office. RSC voting members can also participate with the teams as they are scoring, but they cannot actually score the proposal. Any voting member interested in attending the scoring process to provide input should contact Micci or the local office director to be hooked up with a DCS team.

In January proposals and selected providers will be announced and from that point they will move on to Central Office to start the new contracts.

Melanie stated scoring will occur on November 21st at the VU building in Ft. Branch. The scoring process will take all day. RSC voting members are invited to attend, review proposals and provide input.

Unfinished Business

Judges' Updates — Judge Robert Aylsworth – Judge Aylsworth reported that case weighted caseload measures are being updated. Caseloads have not been updated since 2009. As a result of time studies conducted over the past four years, it has been proposed that credits be reduced from 209 minutes to 165 minutes for each CHINS case that is filed in the court. It is also being proposed that a credit reduction occur for divorce cases from 185 minutes to 92 minutes. In general practice courts, such as Judge Aylsworth's court, this will not have as large of an impact, but in areas that have true family courts this will have a huge impact because more cases will be transferred into those courts to equalize case numbers between courts. Judge Aylsworth stated this may affect DCS workers' ability to get priority for processing of new cases. This study was just released to the judges for comment in the past week. Comments will be reviewed in November and will be presented at a judicial conference in December for a final vote.

New Business

Voting on New Members – Three voting members must be replaced, two local office directors and one supervisor. Melanie recommended Melissa Haaff and Aaron Simpson as new director voting members, and Margaret Angel as new supervisor voting member. Shirley Starks made motion to accept Melissa Haaff, Aaron Simpson and Margaret Angel as new RSC voting members. Judge Aylsworth seconded that motion. Motion carried.

Melanie noted that Dan Miller has informed the RSC that this will be his last meeting because he is leaving the Warrick County Prosecutor's Office to take a new position in Indianapolis.

Public Testimony/Announcements

Sidney Hardgrave from Holly's House reported that they have provided a school based prevention program in several counties in Region 16 for four years and have now added Pike County to that list of Posey, Gibson, Vanderburgh and Warrick. They will be serving at least two or three schools in Pike County.

Nicole Schultz from The Villages announced that as November is Adoption Month, the Villages has made arrangements for the documentary, "Closure", which has won many awards, to be shown at the AMC Theater in Evansville on November 6 at 6:30 p.m. This documentary provides feedback on adoption from the perspective of the adoptive parents, adoptee and birth parents and is geared to adults. Tickets must be purchased on line in advance of the actual showing. The Villages can be contacted for details.

Melanie noted that the Heart Gallery is willing to come to community events with their mini heart gallery ranging from five to ten displays of children for those having events where many people will be present that might be interested. Melanie may be contacted for information regarding the Heart Gallery.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. RSC will meet on January 29, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Central Time at Haub's Steak House, Haubstadt, IN. Melanie reminded everyone that January's meeting will be a busy meeting as there will be a report out on the QSR review, as well as review and voting on the RFP scoring results. This may cause the meeting to run a little longer than usual.

Signatures:

Secretary _____

Chair _____

Date _____

Date _____

Approved: _____ (Secretary's initials) Date: _____

Regional Service Council Region 16 Motion Chart
Date: October 23, 2014
Chair: Regional Manager Melanie Flory

Motion	Discussion	Action	Person Responsible
1. Motion to approve the minutes from the July 31, 2014 meeting.	None	Adopted – Approved by 7 voting members.	Motion by Shirley Starks to Approve Seconded by Stephanie Repphan All voting members present approved.
2. Motion to approve Melissa Haaff, Aaron Simpson and Margaret Angel as new RSC voting members.	None	Adopted – Approved by 7 voting members	Motion by Shirley Starks Seconded by Judge Robert R. Aylsworth All voting members present approved.
3. Motion to approve			
4. Motion to approve			

5. Motion to approve			
6. Motion to approve			
7. Motion to approve			

Vote count must be recorded in the minutes.